IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: JORDAN, RUSSELL A.

Application No.:   Group Art Unit:

Filed: February 22, 2002   Examiner:

Title: SELECTION OF ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application.

In The Specification:

Replace the paragraph at Page 9, starting on line 7 with the following:

Figures 5B'-5B'' through 5D'-5D'' are diagrams for use in illustrating interaction between an orthodontic bracket and an archwire that may be taken into account when selecting orthodontic brackets according to the method shown in Figure 4;

Replace the paragraph at Page 9, starting on line 24 with the following:

Figures 11B-11C (referred to herein as Figure 11B) are another block diagram illustrating yet another embodiment of the selection of predefined and existing brackets according to the selection method of Figure 4; and

Replace the paragraph at Page 9, starting on line 27 with the following:

Figures 12A-12C (referred to herein as Figure 12) are a table used for illustrating a process of selecting the predefined and existing brackets from a database such as described with reference to Figure 11.

Replace the paragraph at Page 29, starting on line 22 with the following:

For example, such clearance is illustrated in Figures 5B'-5B'' through 5D'-5D'' and is preferably taken into account when selecting the brackets. For example, a tooth 500 and bracket 502 are shown in nominal positions in Figures 5B'-5B''. The bracket 502 has a base 508 fixed to the tooth 500 with a bracket slot 506 for receiving archwire 504. Note that in the nominal positions, very little clearance between the archwire and slot exists. Figures 5C'-5C'' show the tooth 500A starting with excess negative torque, while Figures 5C'-5C'' show the tooth starting with excess positive torque. Using the same bracket for such varied start positions would result in completely different final positions for the different start positions. For example, as shown in Figs. 5C'-5C'', movement from tooth position 500A proceeds to 500B, while movement from tooth position 500C goes to 500D.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing prior to substantive examination is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

22 FEB 2002

Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Page 9, paragraph starting on line 7:

[Figure 5B'-5B'''] <u>Figures 5B'-5B'' through 5D'-5D''</u> are diagrams for use in illustrating interaction between an orthodontic bracket and an archwire that may be taken into account when selecting orthodontic brackets according to the method shown in Figure 4;

Page 9, paragraph starting on line 24:

[Figure 11B is] <u>Figures 11B-11C (referred to herein as Figure 11B) are</u> another block diagram illustrating yet another embodiment of the selection of predefined and existing brackets according to the selection method of Figure 4; and

Page 9, paragraph starting on line 27:

Figures 12A-12C (referred to herein as Figure 12) [is] <u>are</u> a table used for illustrating a process of selecting the predefined and existing brackets from a database such as described with reference to Figure 11.

Page 29, paragraph starting on line 22:

For example, such clearance is illustrated in Figures [5B'-5B'''] <u>5B'-5B'' through 5D'-5D''</u> and is preferably taken into account when selecting the brackets. For example, a tooth 500 and bracket 502 are shown in nominal positions in Figure<u>s</u> 5B'<u>-5B''</u>. The bracket 502 has a base 508 fixed to the tooth 500 with a bracket slot 506 for receiving archwire 504. Note that in the nominal positions, very little clearance between the archwire and slot exists. Figure<u>s</u> [5B''] <u>5C'-5C''</u> [shows] <u>show</u> the tooth 500A starting with excess negative torque, while Figure<u>s</u> [5B'''] <u>5C'-5C'' show</u> [shows] the tooth starting with excess positive torque. Using the same bracket for such varied start positions would result in completely different final positions for the different

start positions. For example, as shown in Figs. [5B'']5C'-5C'', movement from tooth position 500A proceeds to 500B, while movement from tooth position 500C goes to 500D.